

the practice of village elections may be a positive development in a transition to democracy in China, without seriously analyzing whether or not the Communist Party may use village elections as a method of establishing control in the rural regions. The report says that "critics of the process say that the Communist Party manipulates the outcome[s]", but it does not adequately assert that China's rulers may use village elections as part of a strategy to maintain control.

On another matter which Mr. Wu raises, it is perplexing that the report fails to reflect the debate this year in Congress and in the Bush Administration about China's planned birth policy, particularly regarding whether or not the Administration would withhold funding from the United Nations Population Control Fund. This important issue is not addressed in this, the first, report of the commission and is conspicuous by its absence. The commission recently held a hearing on this subject, and I believe the report should address in detail China's planned birth policy.

Similarly, I agree with Mr. Wu that the report fails to discuss China's state-sponsored harvesting and trafficking of prisoners' organs, where a common thief can be executed in order for his organs to be sold for transplanting. Can you imagine being imprisoned for a minor offense and ending up being shot in the head and having your kidneys or corneas removed to be sold? Congress has held numerous hearings on this issue and the news media has written about this issue, but the report fails to discuss this horrible practice.

I also believe the recommendations on religious freedom should be stronger. While these recommendations may be well-intentioned, they lack the necessary depth of discussion in addressing the Chinese Government's continued persecution of believers of all faiths—Roman Catholics, Protestants, Falun Gong practitioners, Muslim Uighurs, and Tibetan Buddhists.

Furthermore, I am concerned that this commission may not be willing to be a direct advocate on behalf of human rights and religious freedom, through letters or conversations with Chinese officials.

As I stated at a commission hearing this year, this panel should follow the model of the Helsinki Commission and be vocal in its advocacy for individual cases and human rights in general. I agree with John Kamm, president of the Dui Hua religious freedom organization, who has done more than almost anyone I know for human rights in China, who said at a commission hearing, "The model should be the Helsinki Commission . . . I foresee a day when this commission . . . is an arsenal of human rights."

The Helsinki Commission does not hesitate to write directly to leaders of member countries advocating human rights and religious freedom. The Helsinki Commission has done more than almost any other entity to bring freedom, hope and democracy to the former Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc countries. The CECC ought to follow this successful model. But, clearly, this has not yet occurred, and it is almost as if the CECC is afraid that it will offend the China Government.

If I were a prisoner in China today, I wonder if I would have the same amount of trust and hope in the CECC to take up my case with Chinese officials as Soviet dissidents had in the Helsinki Commission, which was a tireless advocate with officials in the former Soviet Union.

While there are those of us on the commission on differing sides of the China PNTR issue, I am concerned with the perception that many of the commission's staff are

more skilled in the areas of business and trade than in the area of human rights. As the law that created the CECC states, monitoring China's compliance on respecting human rights is a primary task of the commission. I believe the commission's efforts would be enhanced if staff expertise were more balanced, especially to include more staff who have the passion for promoting human rights in China. While I know that the commission staff is composed of competent and skilled professionals, and they are people of integrity, I have been very disappointed with their shortcomings in human rights and religious freedom advocacy.

For the reasons outlined above, I believe this report has some serious gaps in its coverage of human rights in China and I cannot sign the report.

This commission was created with a mandate to promote human rights in China. Unfortunately, I do not see this happening. Human rights organizations have expressed similar concerns to me and some have even questioned whether the commission should continue to exist. I have similar questions regarding the continued viability of the commission.

Lastly, an observation: the fundamental problem in China in regard to the government's human rights abuses and restriction on human liberty is not the "law" in China, but the "regime" in China. The root problem in China is not just a faulty legal system, but a corrupt, totalitarian, oppressive, communist ruling regime that consistently violates human rights and religious freedom of its own citizens—Roman Catholics, Protestants, Falun Gong practitioners, Muslim Uighurs, Tibetan Buddhists or almost anyone who strives to worship and live with liberty.

#### RECOGNIZING ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 2002*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th Anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Eggertsville, New York.

Throughout this coming weekend, parishioners will gather for a variety of celebrations to honor this milestone, and dedicate recent building renovations.

First incorporated on December 18, 1827, St. Paul's was founded by Rev. Vincent Phillip Meyerhoffer, a Hungarian immigrant who served as a Chaplain in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the Napoleonic wars. Rev. Meyerhoffer came to Buffalo in 1819, and founded St. Paul's in order to serve the area's German-speaking population.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church has been an important part of the spiritual and of civic life of our community; and I ask that this Congress join me in wishing the clergy and parishioners of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church our sincerest best wishes on its 175th Anniversary celebration.

#### EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PATSY T. MINK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2002*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness at the passing of my colleague and friend PATSY MINK.

But I also rise in great joy and gratitude as I reflect on the paths she cleared for so many people.

PATSY MINK blazed trails for women and people of color. She was a stalwart progressive voice and aggressive leader on issues important to the American people.

She is known all over this great country for her work on minority affairs and equal rights. Various groups have called her an inspirational role model for students and an "American political trailblazer extraordinaire." The National Organization for Women called her a valiant champion.

One of her greatest successes was the passage of Title IX, which she sponsored. Title IX literally leveled the playing field for women in academics and athletics, bringing countless women into athletics in high schools and colleges and universities, and helping to fuel the successes of many professional women's teams today.

PATSY MINK's biggest fans were also her most important fans—the people she represented in Congress for 24 years, as well as the Hawaii Legislature and the Honolulu City Council, where she consistently advocated on behalf of and delivered for her constituents. This tireless work explains why her local papers described her as "a true champion of the people."

While there are words in honor of her vibrant life in service to the American people, perhaps the most fitting tribute is to strive to capture her extraordinary spirit in this great House as we continue the critical work she devoted her life to achieving—expanding job and education opportunities for women, promoting peace in our troubled world, and fighting for social justice.

My own special memory of PATSY was of the annual gift of chocolate covered macadamia nuts she gave Members of Congress from her native Hawaii. She was not only thoughtful, she was an all around class act.

Mr. Speaker, we all came to Congress to help better the lives of people we represent. We fight hard everyday to achieve results that will improve the quality of life for people in our hometowns. But few can claim the results that PATSY MINK delivered for the people of Hawaii. She is an inspiration to all of us. While being a role model for so many young people in Hawaii and across the nation, she is also a role model for each of us.

God bless her distinguished career in public service. And may God bless her family.